

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03
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USOECD

EUR FOR ALBRECHT; OES FOR GRANT; PASS EPA, HEW

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OECD, SENV, SEDU
SUBJECT: INFORMAL EXCHANGE ON MINISTERIAL LEVEL
MEETINGS: ENVIRONMENT AND EDUCATION
MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

1. HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING, IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING COUNCIL MEETING, OF FEBRUARY 13 WILL PROVIDE AN OCCASION FOR AN INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS (WITHOUT RECORD) ON PROCEDURE FOR ARRANGING MEETINGS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. SECRETARIAT HAS SCHEDULED THIS DISCUSSION AS A RESULT OF REMARKS BY FRENCH AMBASSADOR (BOEGNER) AT LAST COUNCIL MEETING, EXPRESSING PERSONAL DISCONTENT WITH ROUTINE PROCEDURE BY WHICH PROPOSED ENVIRONMENT MINISTERIAL WAS BEING PRESENTED TO COUNCIL. THIS PROCEDURE DOES NOT ALLOW FOR PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH AND WITHIN CAPITALS OR OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AMONG PERMREPS ON JUSTIFICATION AND MERITS OF HOLDING MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. (PROPOSED DATES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED MARCH 28-29, 1979 -- SEE ALSO C(78)1, AND EDUCATION, PLANNED FOR EARLY OCTOBER 1978 -- SEE ALSO ED(77)20, ARE NOT TO BE ADDED TO THE FEBRUARY 13 COUNCIL AGENDA.)

2. AS OF NOW, SECRETARIAT HAS NO SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE DURING HEADS OF DELEGATION DISCUSSION. DELEGATIONS MAY

SPEAK TO RATIONALE FOR BOTH ENVIRONMENT AND EDUCATION MINISTERIALS, BUT SECRETARIAT AND DELEGATIONS RECOGNIZE THAT AT THIS STAGE, PREPARATIONS ALREADY UNDERWAY BOTH AT OECD AND DELEGATION CAPITALS MIGHT MAKE IT AWKWARD TO STOP PREPARATION OF BOTH MINISTERIALS. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT MAY RECALL THAT IN THE CASE OF BOTH THE SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURAL MINISTERIAL MEETINGS PERMREPS DISCUSSION LED TO DELAY. IN THE CASE OF THE SCIENCE MEETING PERMREPS INSISTED ON BETTER PREPARATION OF THE ISSUES BEFORE MEETING COULD BE SET.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE INTEND TO JOIN WITH OUR COLLEAGUES IN SEARCH FOR PROCEDURAL IMPROVEMENTS WHICH WOULD ASSURE TIGHTER AND MORE TIMELY CONTROL BY THE CENTRAL AUTHORITY OF OECD (COUNCIL AND SECRETARY GENERAL) OF PLANS TO LAUNCH MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ON THE PROCEDURAL ISSUE FOR FEBRUARY 13 HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING AS WELL AS SPECIFIC GUIDANCE ON PROPOSALS FOR BOTH MINISTERIALS, SHOULD HEADS OF DELEGATION DISCUSSION FOCUS ON THEM AS SPECIFIC EXAMPLES.

KATZ

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